



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: What are your recommendations for protecting a patient's airway during a seizure?
Should we use a tongue depressor with tape wrapped around it, or use a plastic oral airway?

Response: It would be the recommendation of the Board to use devices that have been clinically tested and proven for this intended purpose. As of late, I believe you will find as many as 20 companies that make appropriate devices to assist in maintaining the airway of a patient experiencing a seizure.

From a patient safety and liability perspective, I would encourage you to not manufacture devices on your own using tape, tongue depressors or other materials to accomplish the same objective.

Reference #: 2005-C-08